

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063645

FOL REPEAT FREETOWN 0763 ACTION SECSTATE 15 MAR.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 0763

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, SL

SUBJECT: LOS: GOSL DELEGATION

REF: STATE 54588

1. GOSL DELEGATION TO LOS CONFERENCE COMPRISED OF ATTORNEY-GENERAL S.A.J. PRATT, LEGAL OFFICER PIERRE BOSTON, MINFORAFF OFFICIAL MALCOLM COLE, AND UN REP EDWARD BLYDEN. COLE LEFT FREETOWN MARCH 12, BOSTON DEPARTS MARCH 17 AND PRATT LIKELY TO BE DELAYED AT LEAST TWO WEEKS ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS IN FREETOWN. IN INTERIM, BLYDEN WILL HEAD DELEGATION.

2. IN LAST FEW DAYS AMBASSADOR HAS USED REFTTEL TO DISCUSS LOS CONFERENCE WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MINAH AND PRATT. FOREIGN MINISTRY DISCUSSION DID NOT GO BEYOND GENERAL AGREEMENT, IMPORTANCE OF CONFERENCE AND DESIRE BOTH COUNTRIES TO SEE COMPROMISES ON RESOLUTION DURING THIS
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SESSION. AMBASSADOR ENCOURAGED COMMUNICATION WITH US

DELEGATION ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL DIFFERENCE.

3. PRATT DISCUSSION MORE SUBSTANTIVE, BUT IT CLEAR THAT DELEGATION BASICALLY UNINSTRUCTED WITH MORE PENCHANT FOR COMPROMISE AMONG COLE AND BOSTON THAN WITH PRATT. PRATT FREQUENTLY LOOKS FOR CREATION OF NEW INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO RESOLVE POSSIBLE CONFLICTS, E.G. TO PATROL ECONOMIC ZONE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES UNABLE TO DO SO THEMSELVES AND TO ASSURE INNOCENT PASSAGE THROUGH STRAITS TO PRECLUDE UNILATERAL ACTIONS. PRATT ALSO LESS INCLINED TO HAMMER OUT AGREEMENT ON SPECIFICS AND MORE DESIROUS OF GENERAL TEXT.

4. COMMENT: TO EXTENT THAT IT MAKES ANY DIFFERENCE, PRATT MAY BE EXPECTED TO SEARCH FOR AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT IN ORDER TO PRACTICE HIS HIGHLY DEVELOPED RHETORIC RATHER THAN TO HAMMER OUT AGREEMENT WHERE HIS PATIENCE WILL NOT BE RECOGNIZED. SAMUELS

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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